

Basic Assessment Course 2026

Eligibility

This course covers all the key theory and practical points a competent beekeeper, at the start of their beekeeping career should be aware of. It aims to increase confidence and knowledge and in doing so improve bee welfare.

Participants must have kept at least one colony, for a minimum of 12 months, without a break, by the time they take their assessment; such beekeepers will have experienced many of the points covered in the course.

There is no obligation for members who attend the course to enter the BBKA assessment. This assessment usually takes place in late July or August.

Course Outline

The syllabus can be found on the BBKA website & is also attached below. There is no written part to this assessment. It is assessed during a hive inspection and Q & A session, by a BBKA moderated assessor. The 4 areas covered are:

- Manipulation & equipment
- Natural History & beekeeping
- Swarming, swarm control & effects
- Disease & pests

The theory course is made up of 2 'face to face' sessions and 4 Zoom sessions. One dedicated practical session will be arranged in the Association apiary, but participants are encouraged to join the Association apiary team to get further hands-on tutoring.

Course Dates:

21st February, Saturday: 10.00 – 15.00 Barham village hall, Valley Road, Barham CT4 6NX

27th February Friday: Zoom session 18.00 - 20.00 tbc

7th March Saturday: Zoom session 18.00 - 20.00 tbc

14th March Saturday: Zoom session 18.00 - 20.00 tbc

21st March Saturday: Zoom session 18.00 - 20.00 tbc

28th March Saturday: 10:00 -15.00 Barham village hall

plus

Tbc: 1 practical session

Don't worry if you have not used Zoom before we can trial it before the session!

Cost: £60 for DDBKA members

(does not include the Assessment entry fee £35 payable to BBKA by 30th April '26)

Deadline for applications: 1st February

For more information contact Jackie Thomas Master Beekeeper & DDBKA Education Officer
Tel: 01227 831235